



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES Reykjavik, Iceland

The Northern Lights

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NAVAL AIR STATION KEFLAVIK CLOSES; U.S. AND ICELAND PLEDGE CONTINUED SECURITY COOPERATION



On 8 September, U.S. and Icelandic officials joined military and civilian staff of Naval Air Station Keflavik ("NASKEF") at the base chapel for a ceremony marking the base's disestablishment after 55 years. NASKEF Commanding Officer Captain Mark Laughton recalled the base's critical role in protecting Iceland and the North Atlantic sealanes during World War II and the Cold War, as well as the multinational character of the endeavor:

"The aircrews came here from many different countries, and from many different walks of life... they were a diverse group, but they all shared one common desire - the desire to live in a world free from tyranny - and they were all willing to put their own lives on the line to achieve that kind of world... Keflavik's success was a direct result of the resolve and determination of the Icelandic people... their willingness to host a large, continuous American and allied presence is what made Keflavik possible. And their expertise in living and working in a sometimes harsh environment is what kept this base operational for over six decades."

Representing Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Þorsteinn Ingólfsson said:

"As happens regularly in history we now face a thoroughly transformed world, and this of course applies to defense and security no less than other fields... Our bonds must be stronger than ever as the threats are increasingly diverse and asymmetrical... The U.S. has stated clearly that it intends to stand by the Defense Agreement and the commitments codified therein. Iceland has expressed its faith in those pronouncements and looks forward to what should be a modern defense relationship that serves the interests of both parties and those of NATO. We feel that we ourselves are contributing as never before to the security of the Atlantic Alliance. "

NASKEF's closure does not mean the end of U.S.-Icelandic security cooperation. The U.S. has emphasized its continued commitment to the 1951 Defense Agreement, under which the U.S. assumed responsibility for Iceland's defense. The U.S. and Iceland are also committed to mutual security through membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Both governments have stated their intention to strengthen cooperation against emerging threats such as terrorism and international crime.

The last U.S. personnel and family members will depart Keflavik by 30 September. While most will go on to other duty stations in the U.S. and around the world, several staff officers have been reassigned to the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik. There they will advise the U.S. Ambassador and work with U.S. and Icelandic security agencies on contingency planning, information exchange, exercises, and other concrete aspects of the two countries' commitment to strengthening security cooperation.

AMERICAN ACTOR ASKS: HOW DO YOU LIKE ICELAND?



Ambassador van Voorst with the cast of "How Do You Like Iceland?"

On August 18, resident Americans attended a performance of "How Do You Like Iceland?" at Reykjavik's Iðnó Theater. The play, written by Icelander Benony Aegisson and performed in English, stars American Darren Foreman and Icelander Kolbrun Anna Björnsdóttir. The play takes the audience on a 50-minute tour through Icelandic history from Leif Eriksson to Björk, meant as a humorous yet informative look at Iceland's people and culture.

Foreman has lived in Iceland, where he directs for stage and teaches acting, since 2001. He has appeared in several Icelandic television commercials and films, including director Baltasar Kormákur's 2005 "A Little Trip to Heaven" with Forest Whitaker and Julia Stiles. His extensive voiceover work includes being the voice of Icelandair's in-flight program. He currently can be heard on the international hit TV show LazyTown.

The Consular Section organized the outing, one of an ongoing series of get-togethers for Americans in the Reykjavik area, to show support for resident Americans active in the cultural life of Iceland. If you know, or if you are, an American performer, musician, artist or athlete living and working in Iceland, let us know at reykjavikconsular@state.gov. We'd like to come see you!

ICELAND'S LAZYTOWN: AN ICELANDIC-AMERICAN COLLABORATION



Stefan Karl, Julianna Rose Mauriello, and Magnus Scheving star as Robbie Rotten, Stephanie, and Sportacus

Living in Iceland, you have undoubtedly experienced the LazyTown phenomenon. However, you may not be fully aware of its impact outside Iceland.

"I could see that kids were getting more and more unhealthy - eating out of vending machines at school, living off fizzy drinks - and that there was the potential for obesity to be a real problem," he recently told the newspaper *The Telegraph*. Determined to act, he initially produced LazyTown as a book a decade ago. It proved so popular that he adapted it as a stage show that has been seen by 80 per cent of Icelanders. Two years ago, he sold the TV version to the American network Nick Jr., a spin-off of children's channel Nickelodeon aimed at pre-schoolers. The show is produced by a multinational cast and crew at a high-tech studio in Gardabaer, using a unique blend of live actors, puppets, and computer animation.

Following its success in the U.S., where LazyTown ranks among the top five preschool shows on commercial TV, the show now brings energetic fun to kids and parents in 102 countries. In 2006 LazyTown's spunky heroine Stephanie – New Yorker Julianna Rose Mauriello – was nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award as Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series.

LazyTown succeeds because it doesn't preach, Scheving says. "Our biggest challenge has been to make it so entertaining that they don't know they're being educated," he told *The Telegraph*. "We don't tell them they have to exercise, that they have to eat healthily. They wanted to show the program in every school in Washington DC, but I had to ask myself, should LazyTown be in schools? And I don't think it should, because then it is no longer entertaining; it's forced down their throats..."

With taping for the show's final season winding down, Scheving hopes next to make a LazyTown movie, and has hinted at plans for LazyTown restaurants. The action never stops in LazyTown!

THE U.S. EMBASSY'S SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL



In his September 11, 2006 remarks on the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, President Bush said, "We remember the innocent who lost their lives — and we pay tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live."

In the interior courtyard of U.S. Embassy Reykjavik stands a simple yet beautiful memorial to this tragedy, conceived and designed by Þorkell Gunnarsson in 2001. The green shrubs represent the grand boulevards of New York City, such as Broadway and 5th Avenue.

Central Park is squared off and basalt columns represent the Twin Towers.

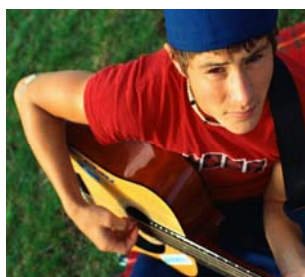
Designed by an Icelander and located at the U.S. Embassy, the memorial stands as a reminder of the history and values shared by the United States and Iceland.



ETHELWYN (MUFF) WORDEN 1943-2006

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of Ethelwyn (Muff) Worden on the 18th of August, 2006. Muff was born on the 17th of January, 1943, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the third of four children born to Warren and Mildred Worden. After an extensively traveled childhood, Muff moved in 1997 to Setðisfjörður, Iceland, where she "found her paradise on earth" as she often described it. Muff taught music at the music schools in Seyðisfjörður, Reyðarfjörður, and Egilstaðir. As well as being an accomplished teacher, Muff also served as a warden for U.S. Embassy Reykjavik. For many years Muff acted as a lifeline between the Embassy and U.S. citizens living on the east coast of Iceland, passing along countless messages. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the American community will be long remembered. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family, friends and everyone whose life she touched.

CALLING TALENTED AMERICANS



Of course you are all talented Americans! The Embassy is putting together lists of Americans living in Iceland who would be willing to volunteer to share their expertise and talents in outreach programs, designed to share American culture with our Icelandic hosts and to strengthen our American community.

If you might be interested in volunteering some time to share a bit of America with Icelanders and fellow Americans, e-mail reykjavikconsular@state.gov with your name, contact information and area of expertise/talent. We are looking for entertainers, athletes, artists, designers, writers, academics, scientists... whatever talent you've got, we'd like to hear about it.



ONLINE NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM EMBASSY REYKJAVIK



Daily news updates from Washington.



Information on visas, emergency assistance to Americans, and other consular services.



The straight scoop on how to study in, travel to, or do business with the USA.



Briefings on U.S. diplomatic, economic, and scientific initiatives.



For all this and more, visit the Embassy's website at...

www.usa.is

USEFUL LINKS FOR AMERICANS ABROAD

General Travel Information	<u>www.travel.state.gov</u>
Travel Warnings	<u>www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html</u>
Useful Tips	<u>www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html</u>
Documents Needed for Travel	<u>www.travel.state.gov/travel/requirements/requirements_1233.html</u>
How to Register Your Travel	<u>www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_1186.html</u>

KEY EMBASSY OFFICERS

Ambassador	Carol Van Voorst
Deputy Chief Of Mission	Philip S. Kosnett
Consular Officer	Ronald E. Hawkins, Jr.
Defense Attaché	Captain James Stevens, U.S. Navy (based in Oslo)
Economic-Commercial Officer	Fiona Evans
Management Officer	Richard Johnson
Political Officer	Brad Evans
Public Affairs Officer	Sally Hodgson
Regional Security Officer	Peter A. Dinoia